

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Adoptive and Foster Home Placement

Fiscal Year 2001

7/01/00-6/30/01

Submitted by:

Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration
December 2001

ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS

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ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS

Children's Administration (CA) is committed to the safe and healthy growth and development of children in their own homes, in out-of-home placement, and in child day care. We provide a comprehensive range of services designed to protect children from abuse and neglect, to support families, and to assure quality of care.¹

I. BACKGROUND

This report addresses the Children's Administration's (CA) efforts of recruiting foster and adoptive homes, reducing the foster parent turnover rate, completing adoptive home studies for legally free children and implementing and operating the Passport program. This report is prepared in compliance with RCW 74.13.031(2), which requires the Department of Social and Health Services to:

Within available resources, recruit an adequate number of prospective adoptive and foster homes, both regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for Indian children, sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed teens, pregnant and parenting teens, and annually report to the governor and the legislature concerning the department's success in: (a) Meeting the need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b) reducing the foster parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies for legally free children; and (d) implementing and operating the passport program required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include a section entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over Causes and Recommendations."

II. HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

During FY01, CA noted several accomplishments and began work on a number of improvements for families and staff. Highlights during FY01 are listed below with more detail provided later in the report.

- ☆ The Children's Administration, in collaboration with Casey Family Program, released the Foster Care Improvement Plan in May 2001. The plan outlines areas that will be addressed on a statewide basis to retain, recruit, and support foster families.
- ☆ Washington State received \$858,419 for finalized adoptions in federal fiscal year 1999 from the Federal Adoption Incentive Payment Program.

¹ Children's Administration Mission Statement

- ☆ Kidscreen is a process to screen children entering out of home placement for service and placement needs has been initiated. Children are to be screened if they are expected to remain in care beyond 30 days.
- ☆ Kinship Care, an increasing number of relatives are providing care for children involved with the Washington child welfare program. To better understand, support and meet the needs of children and care givers in this category, the 2001 legislature approved funding to conduct a survey of kinship (relative) providers. The results of the survey will be assist in program development and service delivery.
- ☆ In the same budget proviso, funding was authorized to increase kinship care placements for children who would otherwise likely be placed in foster care.
- ☆ The Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) facilitated 11 regional “Focus Groups” in 2000. During 2001, a collaborative effort between the foster parent work groups and the Division of Licensed Resources resulted in the following set of brochures:
 - H Foster Home Complaint Process details what happens when a complaint against a foster parent is registered with CA;
 - H DLR/CPS Investigative Process explains what happens when a report of child abuse or neglect is received regarding a person who is licensed or certified by Washington State;
 - H Foster Parents’ Rights and Responsibilities provides guidelines that will direct the course of the relationships between foster parents and DSHS; and
 - H Guidelines for Activities for Children in Foster Care is intended to serve as a guide for foster parents when making a decision for children placed in foster care. All foster parents were mailed copies of these brochures.
- ☆ During July 2001, DLR exceeded the statutory requirement for providing health and safety checks by completing checks on 12.30% of the licensed foster homes.
- ☆ The Division of Licensed Resources, Office of Foster Care Licensing (OFCL) and private partners maintained licenses for 6,310 foster homes in Washington State in July 01.
- ☆ In January 2001, DLR/OFCL began tracking foster home closures. Based on a six-month hand count, 20% of the foster homes closed due to the foster parents adopting the child/ren or being licensed for a specific child.
- ☆ A statewide Family Home Study Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team has developed a more consistent home study process for foster home licensing, relative placements and adoption.
- ☆ The Foster Care Program, Adoption Services and Adoption Support WACs were formally adopted in April 2001.
- ☆ The Licensing WACs were formally adopted in September 2001.

- ☆ DLR improved the submission of criminal history and background inquiry forms for processing.
- ☆ CA implemented the Foster Care Rate Restructure to attain several goals. These include (1) a more equitable foster care reimbursement system, (2) a more effective process to identify services children in out of home care require and (3) clearer expectations for foster parents providing serves to children with higher needs.
- ☆ Development of guidelines for intensive resource homes to meet the higher needs of children who require a more structured environment than a regular foster care setting can provide.
- ☆ “Making a CPS Referral: A Guide for Mandated Reporters” was released on video and CD-ROM in both English and Spanish versions.

III. ADOPTION PROGRAM

Children’s Administration again exceeded the projected number of adoptions to be finalized during FY01. CA completed 1,183 adoptions during FY01, a 16% increase from FY00.¹

Because regions are addressing the backlog of children who have been waiting for finalizations to occur, finalized adoptions in some areas of the state are decreasing. This is good news for children in Washington State who have finally achieved permanence. The numbers further indicate that the Adoption Incentive Payment Program (AIPP) has been beneficial and well utilized. It should be noted that the numbers for finalized adoptions may not continue to rise as CA returns children to their family of origin, or more guardianship placements occur or there are more third party custody orders issued. The goal of adoption is a good goal because all children deserve a permanent family. However, our first goal must and should remain that we work to return children to their family of origin.

Chart 1 shows the total number of finalized adoptions during FY96 – FY01.² Chart 2 shows finalized adoptions by region for the last three fiscal years. FY96 - FY01 trends for the regions are in the appendix.

¹ CAMIS Placement files, 9/04/01

² CA continues to improve data reliability and has gone back and input accurate information where inaccurate information was found. As a result of this, the numbers reported in this report for FY96-FY01 differ from those pulled for FY00 report to the legislature.

CHART 1

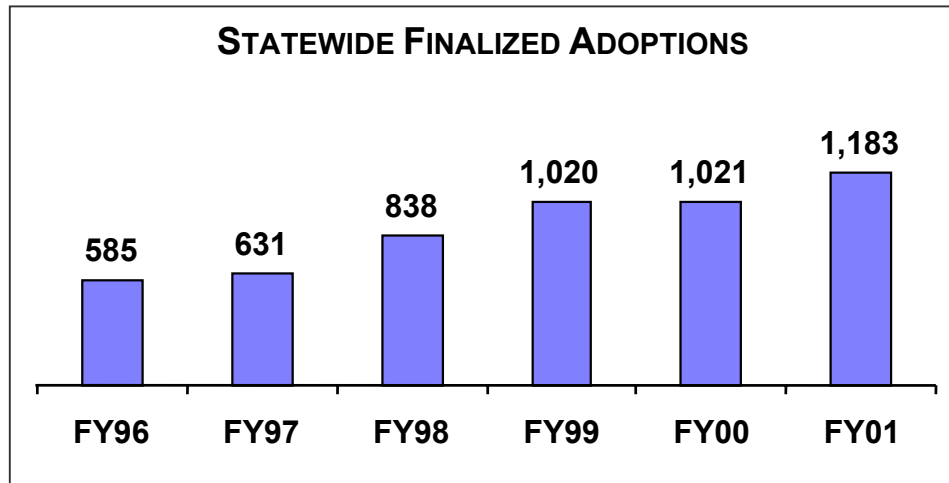
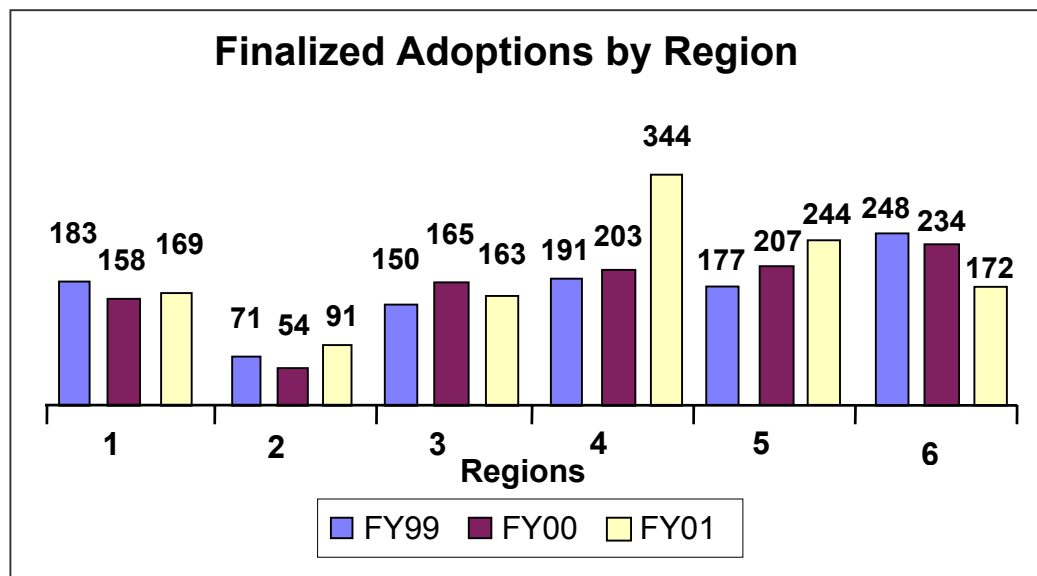


CHART 2



During this past fiscal year CA continued to utilize a variety of resources to assist in the placement of children and finalization of adoptions.

ADOPTION INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM (AIPP)

Washington again exceeded the baseline of finalized adoptions for federal fiscal year 1999. CA utilized the 1999 award money for regional projects designed to increase the number of finalized adoptions in Washington State.

FAMILY HOME STUDY CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI) PROJECT

The Family Home Study CQI team worked hard during this past year developing new forms and procedures for the completion of a common home study for foster home licensing, relative placements and adoption. There will be one format for the completion of a family home study that can be added to as a family moves through the system. Additionally should a family decide in the beginning that there is an interest in foster care or relative care and adoption a family will only have to complete the paperwork one time. There will be a team approach to completing the home study. Shared collaboration between Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) will provide improved service to the clients we serve. The current plan is to move forward with approval to begin piloting the new home study format after the first of year.

IV. MEETING THE NEED FOR ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS

The Children's Administration continues making active efforts to increase the number of foster and adoptive homes available for children. This section will report on the variety of activities that are designed to meet the need for adoptive and foster homes and the number of licensed homes.

ADOPTION CONSORTIUMS

Each region held adoption consortiums during this past fiscal year. These consortiums provide a collaborative staffing process between the department and private agencies to increase awareness of children in need of adoptive families and approved adoptive families waiting for placements. Consortiums promote inter-regional linkages on behalf of children and have resulted in an increase in the number of children registered with the adoption exchanges.

PLACEMENT RESOURCES

The Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE) and the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE) provide recruitment for special needs children. Recruitment occurs through the publication of photo-listing books. Many of the children listed with the exchanges are some of our hardest-to-place children, who have had multiple placements, are older or part of a sibling group.

WARE provides a photo-listing book of both legally free and soon-to-be legally free children, which is distributed within the state. Children who are registered with WARE are automatically registered with NWAE after 90 days, increasing the field of exposure for recruitment of homes for special needs children. During FY01 there were 265 children served through the NWAE and 312 children were served through WARE.

CA in collaboration with NWAEE are working hard to ensure that information in the photo-listing books and on the website is up to date. It is important for each child's "real" profile be available to families and social workers. Therefore the profiles are updated yearly. Social workers who do not update the profile information yearly are temporarily having recruitment activities deactivated. The best and only way to recruit for a child is to have as up to date a profile as possible.

NWAEE provides a photo-listing book on legally free children only, which is distributed in federal Region X.¹ NWAEE also has a recruitment website (www.nwae.org) that currently features an average of 50 – 100 children annually from Washington. In FY 01, there were 67 new children added to the website. As funding is available CA will place additional children on the website. The website cost and maintenance is \$500 per child.

The website continues to receive over 100,000 hits per month. During the 4th quarter of FY01 the website received over one million hits. Though not all hits are from families who are searching for a child this number is promising and shows that there is a growing trend to search via the Internet to build a family. NWAEE responds personally to each inquiry received from home studied families and provides referral information to the social worker. In essence, NWAEE is weeding out inappropriate inquiries and only refers approved families to DCFS social workers.

NWAEE began tracking the total number of hits (defined – approved adoptive families) a child receives. For example, one child received over 100 hits and was ultimately placed. CA is looking forward to reviewing the results and trends of this new tracking mechanism and is hopeful that there will be an increase in the number of children placed. CA will use this information to determine the successfulness of the website, determine if field staff are actually utilizing the home studied families by making adoptive placements and will indicate if additional recruitment is needed for children that receive no hits. In Washington, 9% or 23 of the children listed received no hits indicating that additional recruitment efforts are needed.

During the next five years NWAEE will be exploring the usefulness of the photo-listing book compared to the website. It is anticipated that at a minimum the NWAEE photo-listing book will be permanently replaced by the website. All states in Region X will participate in the process and will make a decision on the best recruitment resources and funding issues.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE PROGRAM

CA continued to budget for the Purchase of Service Program (POS). Over the last two years, this program has grown tremendously. During FY01, CA received 92 requests for POS services. This resulted in an allocation of \$337,481 to pay a total of 17 private agencies (in and out of state) for the adoptive placement of children. Thirty-three of the finalized adoptions in FY01 were children who received POS fees. CA will continue to utilize these funds to provide both in and out of state agencies with additional monetary

¹ Federal Region X includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Utah.

assistance for the placement and adoption finalization of legally free children who have been registered with WARE.

LICENSING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of Foster Care Licensing (OFCL) engages in a variety of required activities to ensure that homes are fully and appropriately licensed. Some of these activities are listed here to provide background information.

- ☆ Provide orientation and 17 hours of pre-service training for prospective applicants.
- ☆ Review the application packet, investigate any CPS and/or criminal history, and contact references.
- ☆ Visit and assess the home to ensure the home will meet health and safety standards.
- ☆ Conduct a home study to assess the family's readiness and skill level to care for foster children.
- ☆ Provide consultation and technical assistance relating to licensing requirements and policies during the home visit.
- ☆ Collaborate with the foster parent to correct deficiencies and write a Compliance Agreement and plan to correct the deficiencies, if necessary.
- ☆ If the application is denied, the licensor prepares documents for an adjudicative proceeding.
- ☆ Visit a minimum of 10% of the licensed foster homes annually to monitor for health and safety and assess the training needs of the foster parent.
- ☆ Respond to licensing complaints and conduct an assessment to determine if there are health and safety or licensing violations.
- ☆ Work with the foster parent to complete a Compliance Agreement and Plan of Correction if there are licensing violations.
- ☆ Monitor the corrective action to ensure a safe environment. Assess training and support needs of the foster parent.
- ☆ Re-license the provider at three-year intervals.

NUMBER OF LICENSED HOMES

DLR/OFCL maintained 6,310 licensed foster homes in FY01.¹ Licensed foster homes remained statistically stable between FY00 and FY01. *(Chart 3 on the next page)* Chart 4 represents the total number of licensed foster homes by region in Washington State in FY01.²

¹ CAMIS Licensing data 7/01

² CAMIS Licensing data 7/01

CHART 3

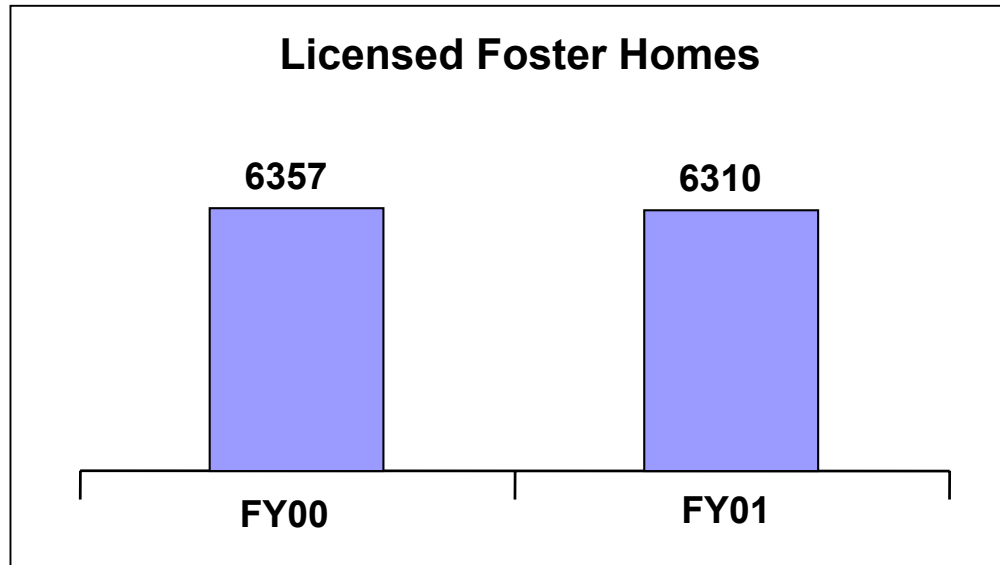


CHART 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES JULY 01

REGIONS	TOTAL OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES	TOTAL # OF HOMES LICENSED BY CA	TOTAL # OF HOMES LICENSED BY A PRIVATE AGENCY (PA)
REGION 1	835	710	125
REGION 2	805	480	325
REGION 3	903	572	331
REGION 4	1243	772	471
REGION 5	1208	619	589
REGION 6	1316	1057	259
STATEWIDE TOTAL	6310	4210	2100

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

The department implemented a new procedure for submitting criminal history and background inquiry forms for processing. In an effort to streamline the submittal process and reduce barriers, private agencies are now able to submit clearances for prospective foster parents directly to the centralized background unit. This eliminated several steps in the process, and as a result licensing decisions for foster parent applications can be made in a more timely manner.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

During FY01 the Children's Administration and Casey Family Programs released the Foster Care Improvement Plan (FCIP) based upon the information obtained from the one-day community event in 2000. In accordance with the plan, a Memorandum of

Understanding was signed by DSHS and Casey Family Programs to work as partners in moving the plan forward. The plan outlines four major strategies with 14 action items and 64 steps to achieve them. The four strategies are:

- ☆ Providing coordination and oversight for all efforts of the plan to improve the system;
- ☆ Changing the agency culture to improve relations between parents providing foster care and social workers;
- ☆ Increasing foster home retention, recruitment and diversity; and
- ☆ Increasing support for foster care.

Committees have been formed in each of the six regions to carry out the goal outlined in the FCIP. Each region has been asked to include the goal of changing the culture of the agency while developing their plans.

The backbone of the plan is improving the relationship between foster parents and social workers in an attempt to retain more of those parents. The more satisfied foster parents we have providing foster care, the greater number of homes we keep and the more those parents are willing to recruit others to the task.

STATEWIDE RECRUITMENT OFFICE

Families for Kids Recruitment Resources (FFKRR), the statewide contracted recruitment office is administered through Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho. Highlights from the program during the past fiscal year are:

- ☆ 237 families who called in on the toll free line became licensed to provide foster care during the 01 fiscal year;
- ☆ 1,715 new calls received;
- ☆ 3,547 calls have been received since the inception of the toll-free line in 1999; 2,362 callers indicate they are still interested and/or in the process of getting licensed; and
- ☆ FFKRR continued and renewed partnerships with private agencies and DSHS to recruit foster and adoptive homes.

DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT

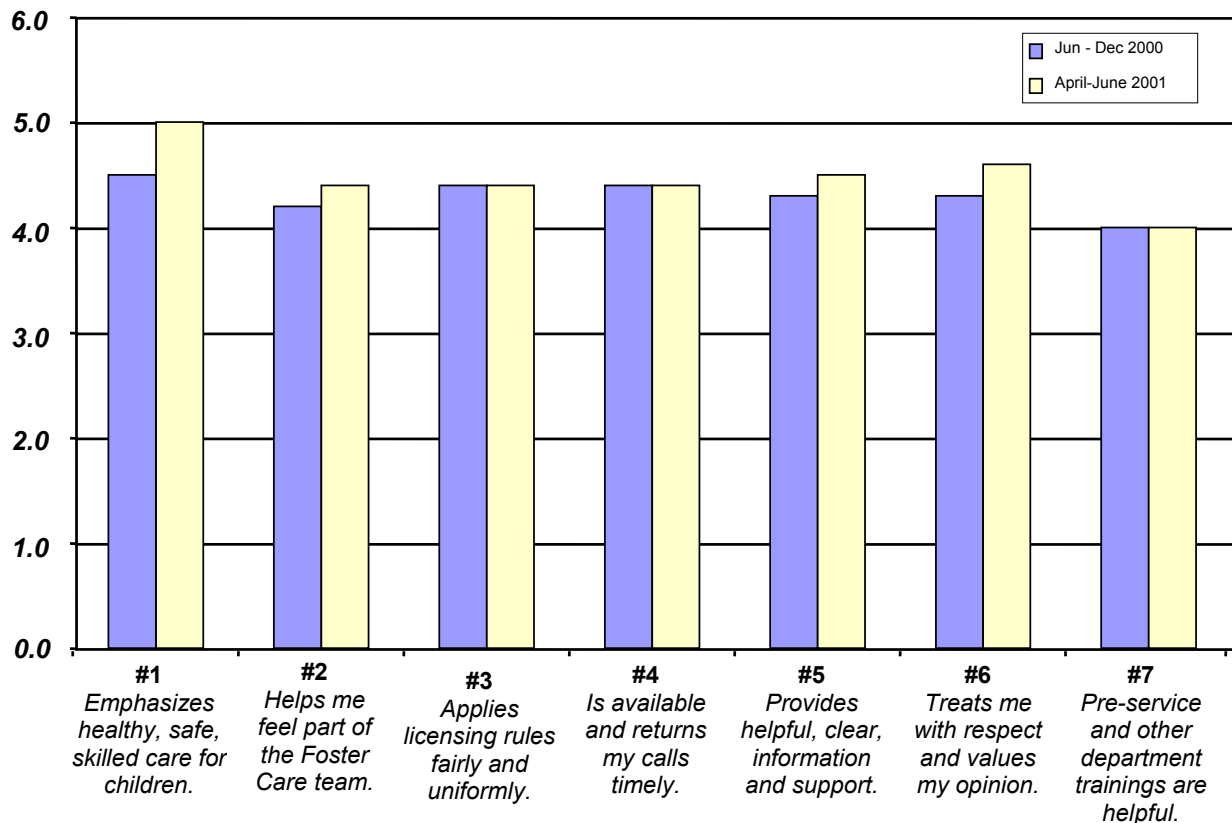
One Church One Child (OCOC) provided recruitment activities that included general recruitment of foster and adoptive families with some child specific recruitment in regions 1, 2, 5 and 6. Regions 3 and 4 were provided service via regional contracts. Families that completed pre-service training through OCOC were tracked and monitored and supported through the foster home licensing process.

V. FOSTER HOME TURN-OVER, CAUSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FOSTER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The Office of Foster Care Licensing (OFCL) staff strives to do the best possible job they can licensing foster homes and facilities. Staff work with providers to bring safe, healthy and skilled foster care to children and facilities. To determine how effectively staff are providing services to foster parents, postage paid customer service cards are provided to foster parents at their initial licensing and at re-licensing. Foster parents rank seven questions from 5 (highest score) to 0 (lowest score) regarding customer service. Chart 5 below shows that OFCL has improved in the areas of emphasizing safe care for children, helping foster parents feel part of the team, providing helpful clear information and treating clients with respect. All other areas remained at a 4.0 rating or higher. Staff will continue to challenge themselves to improve customer relations.

CHART 5



FOSTER PARENT LIAISON CONTRACTS

The Liaison Program continues to assist and provide services to support foster parents. Regional liaisons via email, phone and personal contact have steadily increased the number of foster parent contacts as indicated below

Liaison Contacts to Date			
Year	1999	2000	2001
Contact	6,280	8,569	18,462*

**Increase in liaison positions and data collection change*

The Foster Parent Liaison Contract provides services to enhance communication between the foster parent, DCFS social worker, DLR staff and DSHS management. The liaison contract has been revised to include outcome measures to guide services and more effectively meet foster parents identified needs. Additionally, the liaisons are increasing their contact with private agency foster parents and will work to establish guidelines to support and assist private agencies to meet their foster parent's needs.

FOSTER INTERVENTION/RETENTION SUPPORT TEAM (FIRST)

The Foster Intervention Support Team (FIRST) is a contracted service provided by the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS). Foster parents undergoing Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations are provided non-judgmental services and supports through the FIRST Program. FIRST services include providing training, dispensing information to the foster parent about the investigative process, clarifying communication and assisting foster parents in completing corrective action plans. DLR experienced a reduction in the number of investigations this year and is reflected in the decrease in the number of referrals made to the FIRST Program. DLR and the FIRST program coordinator will be working together to continue to refine services to further the reduction.

Twenty-one volunteer foster parents provided FIRST services at the request of social workers, DLR investigators or foster parents in 27% of the allegations during this report period. A survey, conducted six months after FIRST service ended, found 69% of the foster parents felt they were supported during the investigative process. Next year's focus for the FIRST Program is incorporating elements of **The Kid's Come First Initiative** and the Foster Care Improvement Plan, while developing clearer outcome measures for the program. Data elements will be developed to establish baseline information for improved service provision.

FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION

Nationally May is recognized as **Foster Care Month**. In May 2001, Governor Locke signed a Proclamation recognizing May 2001 as **Foster Family Month**. This year numerous Washington State Mayors joined Governor Locke by signing local proclamations.

Local DSHS offices and staff recognized and celebrated with foster parents through dinners, picnics, fairs, letters and gifts. Many DLR and CA staff conducted raffles, bake sales and other activities to raise funds to pay for local events.

The Foster Parent Appreciation Event, held every two years, is scheduled for May 2003. A planning committee is actively working to surpass the last event, which hosted over 850 foster parents.

FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

- ☆ The Foster Parent Training Institute has continued to offer free on-line training for foster parents during 2000 and 2001. Five classes are offered through Pierce College. These classes are included in the Pierce College certificate and/or degree programs. Response to the classes has been overwhelmingly positive. Since the 2000 Winter quarter, nearly 175 foster parents have completed the on-line training courses. Currently there is a waiting list of 100 foster parents.
- ☆ The Foster Parent Website, www.wa.gov/dshs/fosterparents added a new page about retention during FY01. A variety of training and educational opportunities are offered through the website. This service has seen an increase in foster parent usage with 25,447 foster parents taking advantage of the site. Overall, the website has received over 54,000 hits since its inception in October 1998.
- ☆ In an effort to remove barriers to training the Foster Parent Training Institute began streaming video workshops onto its training website. This approach enables foster parents to learn from the comfort and convenience of their homes (either in real time or in an archived format). Many other states have encouraged their licensed providers to take advantage of Washington's innovative resource. Foster parents from Florida, Texas and New Zealand have logged onto the website for training in Brain Development, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Positive Discipline, and Children and Trauma during this fiscal year.
- ☆ Over 600 people attended the 2000 Foster Parent Conference in Yakima.
- ☆ During FY01, 782 individuals received Foster Parent Scope training for a total of 46,920 hours of training. This is a 60-hour basic foster parent course that foster parents are encouraged to attend.
- ☆ Regional foster parent trainers provided on-going training to 2,696 individuals on identified topics of interest for each region.
- ☆ In 2000 – 2001 CA provided first aid and CPR training to 1,533 people. This training is now provided free to foster parents.

- ☆ CA has decided to purchase a new foster parent training curriculum from the Child Welfare League of America. The updated PRIDE Curriculum (Pre-Service and In-Service levels) provides for 5 competencies for foster and/or adoptive parents. The competencies are:

- H Provision of a safe and nurturing environment;
- H Assessing development and addressing developmental challenges;
- H Helping the child develop relationships that will last a lifetime;
- H Supporting the child's relationship with the biological family; and
- H Being part of professional child welfare team.

VI. PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Health and Education Foster Care Passport Program (FCPP) provides a record of mental and physical health, familial, and educational information for children residing in out-of-home care in Washington State. The Passport Program successfully developed an electronic linkage with the Department of Health's centralized database (CHILD Profile) that records the immunization history on children born in Washington State. The department is able to download immunization information into its own database when children have been identified in out-of-home care. Immunization records are updated monthly.

Chart 6 represents the past three full calendar years of operation, showing the progress in creating Passports for children in out-of-home care.

CHART 6

FOSTER CARE PASSPORT PROGRAM

ACTIVITY SUMMARY DATA (BY CALENDAR YEAR)	PASSPORTS COMPLETED	HEALTH EDUCATION CONTACTS	CASE FINDING & REFERRAL
1998 TOTAL NUMBERS ¹	1573	1985	231
1999 TOTAL NUMBERS	3860	3181	116
2000 NUMBERS	3821	1597	137
2001 NUMBERS	3104	2486	350
TOTAL	12,358	9249	834

- ☆ **Passports Completed:** In addition to the numbers in chart 6, approximately 500-800 new Passports per month are being created.
- ☆ **Health Education Contacts:** Public Health Nurses (PHN) provide consultation to social workers and foster parents regarding many health related topics; PHNs are also occasionally asked to participate in case/family staffings.

¹ 1998 FCPP was implemented in offices statewide throughout the entire calendar year of 1998.

- ☆ **Case Finding & Referral:** When working with foster parents and social workers regarding FCPP enrolled children, PHNs are also asked questions regarding children who are not FCPP participants. PHNs assist with education and referral to community resources.

The Foster Care Passport Program is conducting a statewide satisfaction survey. The surveys were sent to all health care providers, social workers and foster parents who cared for children who received passports between June 1 and August 31, 2001. The plan is to release the survey results after the first of the year.

Work continues to expand our electronic interface with other agency databases in an effort to efficiently retrieve medical and scholastic information on children for whom Passports are constructed. Development of an electronic interface with the Medical Assistance Administration's "**Medical Management Information System (MMIS)**" is progressing rapidly. This interface will allow the Children's Administration to expeditiously and efficiently collect vital information on children coming into placement from public assistance households. Examples of the type of information that will be collected include diagnosis codes, a history of health care providers, and medications prescribed. This will significantly streamline the Passport creation process for these children.

INCREASED PASSPORT PRODUCTION

Since the FCPP began in July 1997, CA has not received necessary funding to staff the program at the level required to produce Passports on all the children meeting the enrollment criteria of 90 consecutive days in out-of-home care.

Staff necessary to run this program are contracted public health nurses from local public health jurisdictions. The initial projections for the required number of full-time equivalent public health nurses necessary statewide to properly operate the Passport program was 32. That figure was based on a two-year report produced by CAMIS showing the number of children each month, during this base two-year period, which reached the 90-day threshold.

The available funding has only allowed the FCPP to contract for the equivalent of 20.5 Public Health Nurses statewide.

CA developed a decision package to fund the creation of Passports for all children meeting the enrollment criteria. The Governor's budget requested an additional \$2.9 million for the Passport program. It was projected that this would allow the program to create Passports for 80% of the children eligible for enrollment in the program. The budget approved by the Legislature allocated half the amount requested, or \$1.458 million with the restriction that these funds be utilized to eliminate the backlog of cases eligible for Passports, and that these funds be expended in FY02.

CA is developing plans, in conjunction with the Department of Health and local public health jurisdictions on the most effective method for expenditure of these funds.

However, the one-year restriction has significant negative effects upon the program. CA is developing a decision package for the 2002 legislative session designed to address these negative effects.

VII. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Children's Administration is committed to improving services to foster and adoptive families, retaining foster parents and providing services to children and families. CA's plans for the future include:

- ☆ Continued collaboration with Independent Adoption Center and Teamwork for children on reducing barriers to inter/intra-jurisdictional adoptive placements.
 - H Work has begun on the development of a border state agreement between Washington and Oregon. Placements and facilities on both sides of the border have an impact on the children we place. We are optimistic that we will be able to move forward with this agreement. This is a national issue and Washington and Oregon will be closely watched by other states as to the success since there are very few states that have border state agreements.
- ☆ Continued collaboration with Casey Family Programs and other stakeholders to improve our partnership with foster parents.
- ☆ Implementation and outcomes from the Foster Care Improvement Plan.
- ☆ Implementation of the "PRIDE Foster and Adoption Training Curriculum" sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America.
- ☆ Expansion of on-line classes for foster parent training.
- ☆ Piloting a common home study format for foster, adoption and kinship care. This will facilitate adoptions by foster and relative caregivers as the basic home study will have been completed and no longer require duplication at the time of adoption.
- ☆ Implementation of mandatory training for all prospective adoptive parent through the new PRIDE curriculum.
- ☆ Development of an "Adoption" webpage on the CA website is still in the works. The production of this should be available by the end of FY 02.
- ☆ Exploration of opportunities to provide additional training for staff, families and child placing agencies on adoption related issues.
- ☆ Improvement and clarification of adoption policies.

- ☆ Utilization of the WorkFirst Program – Work Experience to provide skills training while at the same time receiving additional assistance with adoption archives and ICPC functions where there is a backlog of work to do.
- ☆ Statewide implementation of Kidscreen.
- ☆ Additionally, it is hoped that an interface can be developed with a database being developed for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. OSPI is currently involved with a pilot project that provides students in Washington State a “unique student identifier code (USIC)”. If successful, statewide implementation is anticipated for July 2003. This interface would allow CA to efficiently obtain scholastic data on children in out-of-home care.
- ☆ Utilization of the Medical Management Information System (MMIS) interface.
- ☆ Headquarters and 10 field offices are in the process of being accredited.

APPENDIX

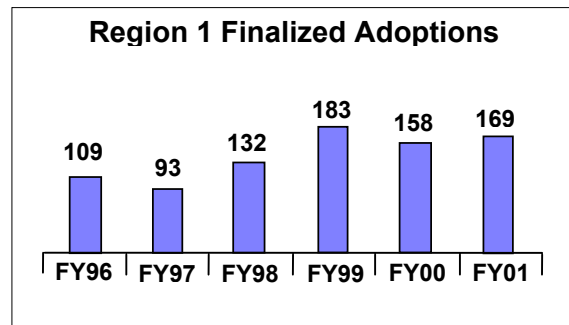
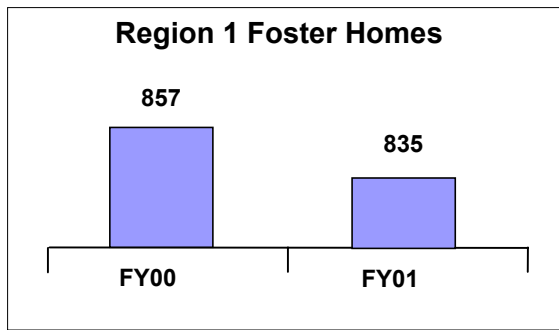
REGIONAL SECTION

THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES

REGION 1

Region 1 has eight field offices located in Colfax, Colville, Moses Lake, Newport, Omak, Republic, Spokane and Wenatchee. The offices provide services to 11 counties in Northeast Washington.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 835*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized in FY01: 169



RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES

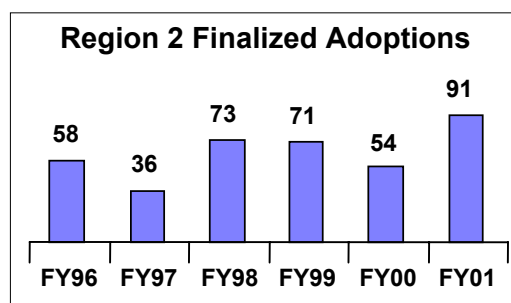
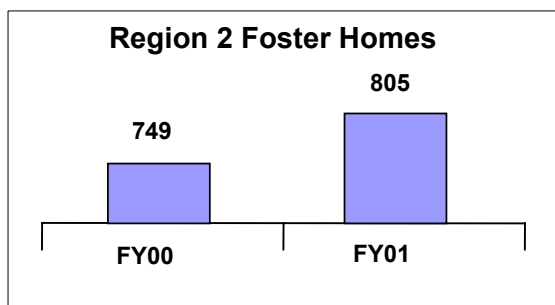
- ◆ Recruitment articles in various publications including bicultural publications.
- ◆ Recruitment presentations at community events.
- ◆ Radio and other media resources are utilized for recruitment announcements.
- ◆ Recruitment posters displayed around the community.
- ◆ Greater Wenatchee Coupon Book with ad has been distributed to between 20,000 – 30,000 households.
- ◆ Coordination of recruitment activities with FFKRR.
- ◆ Recruitment presentations and sharing brochures at local churches, community clubs and conferences.
- ◆ Recruitment at the Chelan County fair.
- ◆ Public presentations at service clubs.
- ◆ Recruitment table at “Kids Day” at a park in Wenatchee.
- ◆ The Spokane Foster Parents Association received a grant for approximately \$2 million to develop a number of ways to support foster parents.

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.

REGION 2

Region 2 has seven field offices located in Yakima, Clarkston, Ellensburg, Sunnyside, Richland, Toppenish and Walla Walla. These offices provide services to eight counties in Southeast Washington.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 805*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized: 91



RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES:

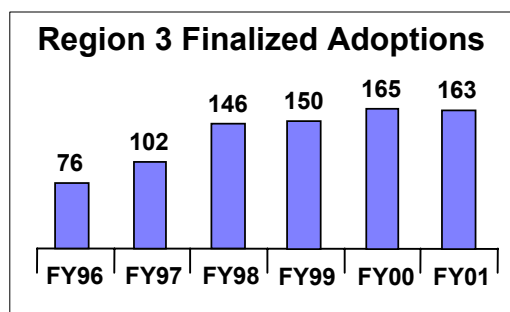
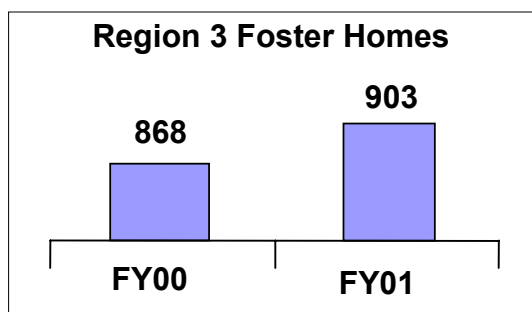
- ◆ Each office in the region has an FTE designated to do foster and adoptive home recruitment and retention.
- ◆ Bilingual/bicultural staff assigned to recruitment and retention efforts.
- ◆ Coordinate with child placing agencies and FFKRR for recruitment efforts in the region.
- ◆ During monthly collaboration meetings, the department, child placing agencies and FFKRR continue to build upon partnerships and recruitment efforts.
- ◆ Collaboration with local businesses has resulted in posting information about fostering on reader boards in the regions.
- ◆ Presentation to local service clubs and local churches.
- ◆ Placing recruitment posters around the community.
- ◆ Display banners in Tri-Cities and at fairs.
- ◆ Foster Care information booth at fairs and other community events.
- ◆ Contracts with private agencies, including the Yakama Nation, for foster home recruitment.
- ◆ Recruitment through Spanish and Native American media resources.
- ◆ Provide training opportunities for foster parents, including payment assistance for expenses and registration fees for foster parents.
- ◆ Increase budget for educational support to foster parents.

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.

REGION 3

Region 3 has eight field offices located in Alderwood, Bellingham, Everett, Friday Harbor, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor, Sky Valley and Smokey Point. These offices provide services in three counties in Northwest Washington.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 903*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized: 163



RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES:

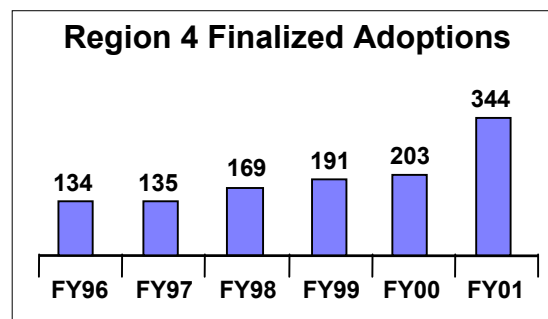
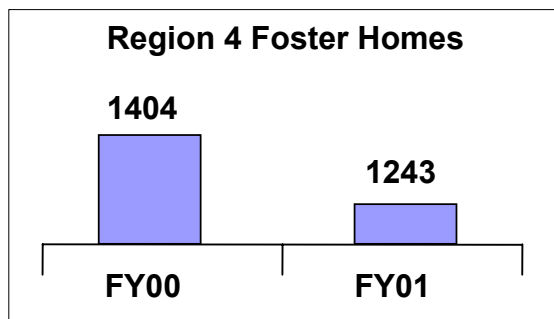
- ◆ Region 3 is working with FFKRR, participating in outreach at the various malls and information booths.
- ◆ Placement Coordinators have placed short announcements in local newspapers and distributed flyers to businesses, libraries, etc.
- ◆ Snohomish County efforts include outreach to churches and schools.
- ◆ In addition, Snohomish County held a summit meeting to focus on the crisis in foster care. A group made of private agency representatives, the FFK recruiter and CA representatives who established a goal of coordinating recruitment efforts. Developing a recruitment calendar for Snohomish County was a result of the meeting.
- ◆ Three contracts with private agencies for minority recruitment.
- ◆ Monthly foster parent focus groups.
- ◆ CQI on recruitment and retention.

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.

REGION 4

Region 4 has five field offices in King County. Offices are located in Bellevue, Kent and Seattle.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 1,243*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized: 344



Recruitment Efforts for Foster and Adoptive Homes:

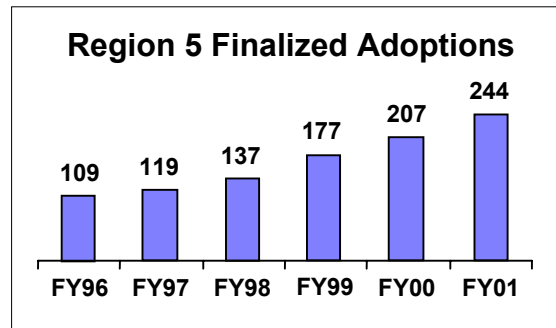
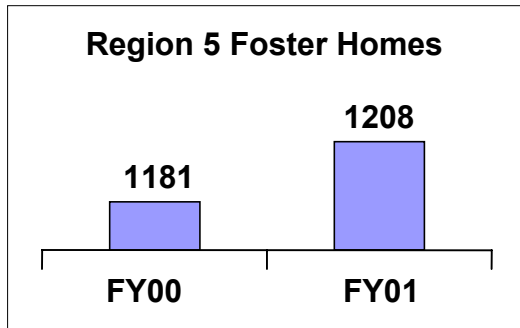
- ◆ A program manager was hired to develop and coordinate strategies for recruitment. Retention of foster care resources plan to hire two additional social workers to focus on specific recruitment and retention projects.
- ◆ Three agreements with child-placing agencies were signed to recruit receiving care beds. There are currently 12 beds available to serve children in need of emergency placement.
- ◆ Recruitment for short term receiving home for high needs teens.
- ◆ Collaboration with three private agencies to develop placement resources for teens.
- ◆ Attendance at community events: Sea Fair Pow Wow (3 days), King County Fair (5 days), KOMO Kids' Fair, Ravensdale Community Center Open House.
- ◆ Community Based Foster Care Recruitment is ongoing in Enumclaw and Black Diamond.
- ◆ Collaboration with Northwest Adoption Exchange and DLR to provide an adequate pre-service foster and adoptive parent training schedule.
- ◆ Contract with One Church One Child to provide one pre-service training class per month for families that have been recruited through the agency's child specific recruitment efforts.

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.

REGION 5

Region 5 has 2 field offices located in Tacoma and Bremerton. These two offices provide services in Pierce and Kitsap counties.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 1,208*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized: 244



RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES:

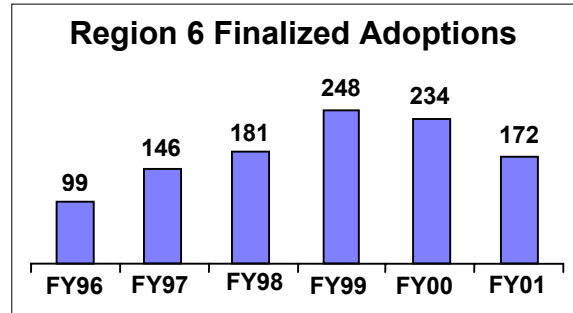
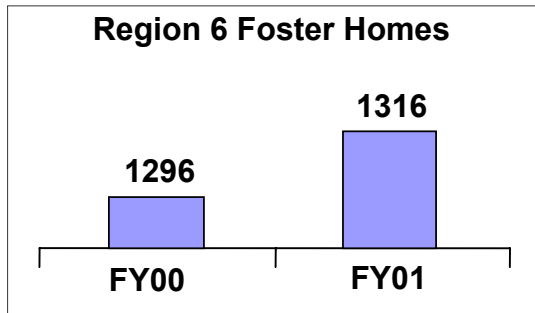
- ◆ Recruitment activities at various fairs, festivals and celebrations.
- ◆ Attended a meeting with the Black Historical Society, which is sponsored by staff of the NAACP.
- ◆ The NAACP hosted a health fair for families of color, which also included the need for foster and adoptive homes for children of color.
- ◆ Recruitment at the Ethnic Festival in Pierce County.
- ◆ Participated in the Sound to Narrows where flyers were handed out.
- ◆ A letter was sent to local area Tribes in Pierce and Kitsap counties to see if the recruiters could provide services or support to the Tribes.
- ◆ Recruitment letters have also been sent out to local churches, organizations and agencies in the community.

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.

REGION 6

Region 6 has 14 field offices located in Aberdeen, Centralia, Forks, Goldendale, Kelso, Long Beach, Olympia, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Shelton, South Bend, Stevenson, Vancouver and White Salmon. These offices provide services in 14 counties.

- ◆ Number of licensed foster homes: 1,316*
- ◆ Adoptions finalized: 172



RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES:

- ◆ Contracts with private agencies to assist in recruitment efforts.
- ◆ Utilize foster parents as recruiters and provide them with a monthly stipend for their efforts.
- ◆ Staff in the Columbia Gorge discussed the need for foster parents on the radio.
- ◆ Community networking to develop recruitment resources.
- ◆ Collaboration with FFKRR.
- ◆ Presentations in the community including churches.
- ◆ Booths at community fairs

* Total licensed foster homes includes both CA and private agency homes.